

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A depression switch provided on a substrate comprising:
a key top which is provided in a case fixed on the substrate so as to be movable in a vertical direction;
an elastically deformable movable contact piece which is abutted against said key top moved downward and has a substantially upside down concave-shaped cross-sectional configuration;
one fixed electrode which is provided below an end portion of said movable contact piece on said substrate;
other fixed electrode which is provided at a position of being capable of contacting the central portion of said elastically deformed movable contact piece on said substrate; and
[[a]] an electrically conductive spacer for electrically connecting the end portion of said movable contact piece to said one fixed electrode.

Claim 2 (Original): The depression switch according to claim 1, wherein said movable contact piece is formed in a substantially circular dome shape, and said one fixed electrode and said spacer are formed in a substantially annular body.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A depression switch according to claim 1 or 2, provided on a substrate comprising:

a key top which is provided in a case fixed on the substrate so as to be movable in a vertical direction;

an elastically deformable movable contact piece which is abutted against said key top moved downward and has a substantially upside down concave-shaped cross-sectional configuration;
one fixed electrode which is provided below an end portion of said movable contact piece on said substrate;

other fixed electrode which is provided at a position of being capable of contacting the central portion of said elastically deformed movable contact piece on said substrate; and
an electrically conductive spacer for electrically connecting the end portion of said movable contact piece to said one fixed electrode;

wherein said case is provided with a concave portion for the movable contact piece of said depression switch to be fitted into, and the spacer of the depression switch is provided with engagement means for engaging with said case.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The depression switch according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said case is provided with a fitting portion for said key top to be slidably fitted into, and said fitting portion is disposed so that said key top is capable of contacting the central portion of said movable contact piece.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A multidirectional input device comprising:

- a case fixed on a substrate;
- a pair of upper and lower rotating members supported within the case so as to be rotatable in an X-Y direction;
- an operating member which penetrates elongated holes provided respectively at central portions of the pair of upper and lower rotating members and extended in a Y-X direction, which rotates the respective rotating members by being operated in a peripheral direction and which is capable of performing a depression operation;
- a holding mechanism for elastically holding the operating member and/or the rotating members at neutral positions;
- a pair of signal detecting means for detecting signals corresponding to rotation angles of the rotating members; and
- a depression switch of claim 1 or 2 switched by the depression operation of the operating member,
 - wherein a key top of said depression switch is provided below the operating member so as to penetrate a bottom plate portion of the case and to be movable in a vertical direction.

Claim 6 (New): A multidirectional input device comprising:

a case fixed on a substrate;

a pair of upper and lower rotating members supported within the case so as to be rotatable in an X-Y direction;

an operating member which penetrates elongated holes provided respectively at central portions of the pair of upper and lower rotating members and extended in a Y-X direction, which rotates the respective rotating members by being operated in a peripheral direction and which is capable of performing a depression operation;

a holding mechanism for elastically holding the operating member and/or the rotating members at neutral positions;

a pair of signal detecting means for detecting signals corresponding to rotation angles of the rotating members; and

a depression switch of claim 3 or 4 switched by the depression operation of the operating member,

wherein a key top of said depression switch is provided below the operating member so as to penetrate a bottom plate portion of the case and to be movable in a vertical direction.

Claim 7 (New): A depression switch provided on a substrate comprising:

a key top which is provided in a case fixed on the substrate so as to be movable in a vertical direction;

an elastically deformable movable contact piece which is abutted against said key top moved downward and has a substantially upside down concave-shaped cross-sectional configuration; one fixed electrode which is provided below an end portion of said movable contact piece on said substrate;

other fixed electrode which is provided at a position of being capable of contacting the central portion of said elastically deformed movable contact piece on said substrate; and

an electrically conductive spacer for electrically connecting the end portion of said movable contact piece to said one fixed electrode;

wherein said movable contact piece is formed in a substantially circular dome shape, said one fixed electrode and said spacer are formed in a substantially annular body, and said case is provided with a concave portion for the movable contact piece of said depression switch to be fitted into, and the spacer of the depression switch is provided with engagement means for engaging with said case.

Claim 8 (New): The depression switch according to claim 7, wherein said case is provided with a fitting portion for said key top to be slidably fitted into, and said fitting portion is disposed so that said key top is capable of contacting the central portion of said movable contact piece.

Claim 9 (New): A multidirectional input device comprising:

a case fixed on a substrate;

a pair of upper and lower rotating members supported within the case so as to be rotatable in an X-Y direction;

an operating member which penetrates elongated holes provided respectively at central portions of the pair of upper and lower rotating members and extended in a Y-X direction, which rotates the respective rotating members by being operated in a peripheral direction and which is capable of performing a depression operation;

a holding mechanism for elastically holding the operating member and/or the rotating members at neutral positions;

a pair of signal detecting means for detecting signals corresponding to rotation angles of the rotating members; and

a depression switch of claim 7 switched by the depression operation of the operation member, wherein a key top of said depression switch is provided below the operating member so as to penetrate a bottom plate portion of the case and to be movable in a vertical direction.

Claim 10 (New): A multidirectional input device comprising:

a case fixed on a substrate;

a pair of upper and lower rotating members supported within the case so as to be rotatable in an X-Y direction;

an operating member which penetrates elongated holes provided respectively at central portions of the pair of upper and lower rotating members and extended in a Y-X direction, which rotates the respective rotating members by being operated in a peripheral direction and which is capable of performing a depression operation;

a holding mechanism for elastically holding the operating member and/or the rotating members at neutral positions;

a pair of signal detecting means for detecting signals corresponding to rotation angles of the rotating members; and

a depression switch of claim 2 switched by the depression operation of the operation member, wherein a key top of said depression switch is provided below the operating member so as to penetrate a bottom plate portion of the case and to be movable in a vertical direction.